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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,727	11/09/2001	Chien- Ming Chen	0941-0364P-SP	5871
2292	7590	09/03/2004	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			DU, THUAN N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2116	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/986,727	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHEN ET AL. 	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thuan N. Du	<b>Art Unit</b> 2116	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential step, such omission amounting to a gap between the step. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted step is: coupling the first source clock to another clock input terminal of the second circuit block within the circuit blocks. Without the above mentioned step, the second circuit block has not received the first source clock, therefore, it is not clear how the second circuit block could be operated in accordance with the first source clock when switched.
5. Claims 2-3 are also rejected for incorporating the above deficiency by dependency.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagae (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,699).

8. Regarding claim 1, Nagae teaches a method for reducing clock skew in an integrated circuit having a plurality of circuit blocks (CPU 1, CPU Controller 29, DRAM Controller 31) [abstract], the method comprising:

providing a first source clock (CPCLK0, clock outputted from frequency divider 25 to CPU) coupled to a clock input terminal first circuit block (CPU 1) within the circuit blocks [Fig. 6; col. 8, lines 50-51];

providing a second source clock (CPCLK1) coupled to a clock input terminal of second circuit block (either CPU Controller 29 or DRAM Controller 31) within the circuit blocks [Fig. 6; col. 10, lines 63-65; col. 11, lines 59-61]; and

switching the clock input terminal the second circuit block the first source clock [col. 12, lines 28-37] when the second circuit block is configured to operate in synchronization with the first circuit block, thereby operating the first and second circuit blocks in accordance with the same first source clock [col. 1, lines 48-52].

9. Regarding claim 2, Nagae further teaches:

providing an operation mode signal (CPSTD0,1) [Fig. 6]; and

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setting a first state to the operation mode signal (XTEST1 = 1), thereby operating second circuit block synchronization with the first circuit block [col. 12, lines 39-40; col. 13, lines 3-7].

10. Regarding claim 3, Nagae further teaches:

setting a second state to the operation mode signal (XTEST1 = 0), wherein the second circuit block operates asynchronously to the first circuit block when the operation mode signal is at the second state [col. 12, lines 38-39; col. 13, lines 3-7]; and

switching the clock input terminal the second circuit block to second source clock, thereby independently operating the first circuit block in accordance with the first source clock and the second circuit block in accordance with the second source clock [col. 12, lines 28-37].

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

11. Claims 4-7 are allowed.

#### *Conclusion*

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan N. Du whose telephone number is (703) 308-6292 (after 10/14/04, (571) 272-3673). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159 (after 10/14/04, (571) 272-3670).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

The fax number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuan N. Du', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thuan N. Du  
September 2, 2004